

REMARKS

The pending claims are 2 – 5, 7 – 14, 33, 39 – 41, 47 – 51. Claims 1, 6, 15 – 32, 34 – 38, 42 – 44 are cancelled, and claims 45 – 46 are withdrawn. New claims 47 – 51 are added. These amendments are supported by the specification and the original claims. No new matter has been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The Official Action has asserted that claims 45 – 46 “are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed,” and have withdrawn these claims from consideration. (Official Action at page 2) With conceding the merits of this assertion and to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have withdrawn claims 45 – 46.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FATEH

The Official Action has rejected claims 1, 3 – 5, 8, 10 – 14, 38 and 42 – 43 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fateh et al., (Fateh) US 6,076,928. Without conceding the merits of this rejection and to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 6, 38 and 42 – 43 and have made claims 3 – 5, 8, and 10 – 14 dependent from claim 33, a claim that the Official Action has indicated as allowable (Official Action at page 6). Hence, withdrawal of this § 103 (a) rejection over claims 3 – 5, 8, and 10 – 14 on the basis of Fateh is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FATEH IN VIEW OF RICHARDSON

The Official Action has rejected claims 2 and 9 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fateh in view of Richardson. Without conceding the merits of this rejection and to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have made claim 2 and 9 dependent from claim 33, a claim that the Official Action has indicated as allowable (Official Action at page 6). Hence, withdrawal of this § 103 (a) rejection over claims 2 and 9 on the basis of Fateh and Richardson is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FATEH IN VIEW OF KOCHANSKI, US 5,854,661

The Official Action has rejected claim 6 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fateh in view of Kochanski. Without conceding the merits of this rejection and to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claim 6. Hence, this § 103 (a) rejection is moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 44 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FATEH IN VIEW OF JEON, US 5,877,841.

The Official Action has rejected claim 44 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fateh in view of Jeon. Without conceding the merits of this rejection and to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claim 44. Hence, this § 103 (a) rejection is moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Official Action has objected to claims 7, 39 and 40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 7, 39 and 40 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Official Action at page 6). Applicants have incorporated the elements of the now cancelled claims 1 and 6 into the present claim 7. Applicants have incorporated the elements of the now cancelled claims 1 and 38 into the present claim 39. Applicants have further incorporated the elements of the now cancelled claim 1 into claim 40. Withdrawal of the objections over claims 7, 39 and 40 is requested.

The Official Action has further indicated that claims 33 and 41 are allowed. Applicants have amended claims 2 – 5, 8 – 14 to depend from claim 33, and have replicated these dependent claims to depend from each of 39, 40 and 41. Applicants believe that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early indication of allowability of the present claims.

RELATED APPLICATION

Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to a copending application US 10/409,403, currently being examined in Art Unit 3762 by Examiner George C. Manuel.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance and request early indication of Allowability thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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